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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,616	03/01/2004	Jost-Ulrich Kuegler	13287-002US2 / K27520PCUS	8845
26161	7590	10/20/2004	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC 225 FRANKLIN ST BOSTON, MA 02110			FRANCIS, FAYE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3728	

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/790,616

Applicant(s)

KUEGLER, JOST-ULRICH

Examiner

Faye Francis

Art Unit

3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/1/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the belt or strap with an overhang and eyelet as recited in claim 9 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. All of the elements that the applicant refers to as a strap with an overhang and eyelet" as required in claim 9 is not clear.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 5: the claim appears to be redundant since the new added limitation in this claim is already in claim 4 from which claim 5 depends.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-2, 6-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papst in view of Chontos and Taylor and further in view of GB 1326711, hereinafter GB.

Papst discloses in the embodiment of Fig 3, a children's rocking toy in the form of a stylized horse, having a one-piece basic body [col 1 lines 14-18] made of flexible synthetic material [col 1 lines 14-34] which has a simply curved rocking surface forming the base [frame 15] of the rocking toy and a seat region 21 molded [col 2 lines 37] into it, the basic body has, at its two longitudinal end regions, two curvatures in the form of a horse's head 21a and of a horse's rear part 21b, respectively, each curvature having a height relatively greater than the molded-in seat region, the cross section of the basic body widens from its upper, narrow side, which forms the horse's head, seat region and horse's rear part, towards the curved rocking surface in a continuous and uniform contour of the side surfaces [Fig 3] as recited in claim 1.

Papst does not disclose the seat region is molded a good distance into the basic body and thereby forms a backrest region and the flexible synthetic material is a foam as recited in claim 1, the basic body is manufactured, in particular cut, from a foam block as recited in claim 6 and the basic body is covered with a fabric covering as recited in claim 7 and the rocking surface has a non-slip backing made of leather or imitation leather and the backing is connected to the basic body by a zipper fastener or by button or snaps or by a belt or strap with an overhang and eyelet for exchanging or for cleaning or washing purposes as recited in claim 9.

Chontos teaches the concept of providing a rocking horse with shock absorbing non-slip surface [rubber 44] attached to its lower extremities. It would have been obvious to provide the curved rocking surface in the device of Papst to include the non-slip backing as disclosed by Chontos, in order to prevent the device from sliding.

Taylor teaches that using roughened leather to make a non-slip surface is conventional. It would have been obvious to further make the non-slip backing out of roughened leather as disclosed by Taylor, in order to prevent the device from sliding and to make it work silently. Additionally, it would have been obvious to connect the backing to the curved rocking surface by way of a zipper fastener or by button or snaps or by a belt or strap in order to prevent "premature separation" of the backing from the curved rocking surface.

With respect to the seat region is molded a good distance into the basic body and thereby forms a backrest region, Papst discloses in the embodiment of Fig 1 the seat region is molded a good distance into the basic body. It would have been obvious to modify the seat region in the embodiment of Fig 3 in device of Papst to be molded a good distance into the basic body as disclosed by the embodiment of Fig 1 of the same reference, in order to ensure safe handling and operation by a child.

GB is cited to show a desirability to make a rocking toy made out of a block of foam covered with a fabric covering [waterproof sheet material or fabric] [col 1 last two lines]. It would have been obvious to make the device of Papst out of a block of foam as disclosed by GB in order to make the device safe for the children by avoiding hard or sharp edges. Also, it would have been obvious to provide the device with waterproof sheet material or fabric to make the device suitable for outdoor play.

8. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papst, Chontos, Taylor and GB and further in view of Curry, Sr., hereinafter Curry.

Modified device of Papst discloses most of the element of this claim as applied to claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9-11 above but does not disclose the tail and the mane of the horses head consist of real, artificial or stylized hairs.

Curry teaches the concept of providing a rocking horse in which the tail and the mane of the horse's head consist of artificial hairs [col 7 line 44]. It would have been obvious to further provide the rocking horse of Curry with artificial hairs in its tail and mane as disclosed by Curry in order to make the device more realistic.

9. Claims 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papst, Chontos, Taylor and GB and further in view of Official Notice hereby taken that having seat region has a leather layer as the saddle is well known in the art.

Modified device of Papst has most of the elements of claim 8 as applied to claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9-11 above but does not disclose the seat region has a leather layer as the saddle.

In view of Official Notice above it would have been obvious to provide the device of Papst with a leather saddle in order to have a more comfortable seat. [see also US Patent number 4,848,067]

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

12. Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye Francis whose telephone number is 703-306-5941. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on 703-308-2672. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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